

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A system for editing and displaying a structured argument, having a plurality of associated parameters, the system comprising:

a processor operative to execute computer executable instructions; and
a computer readable medium that stores the computer executable instructions, the computer executable instructions comprising:

a user interface that graphically displays the plurality of parameters at a user accessible display and receives input from a user defining the value of a selected parameter, wherein the plurality of parameters comprises respective confidence values for a plurality of hypotheses;

a computational engine that alters the selected parameter to the defined value, updates the plurality of parameters according to the defined value of the selected parameter, and provides the altered parameters to the user interface, such that the display is updated in real time to reflect the user input; and

a simulation function that alters at least one parameter of the structured argument according to a predetermined series of values, representing changes in the at least one parameter over a period of time.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, at least one confidence value being displayed to a user via a first, qualitative indicator and a second, quantitative indicator.

4. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, the plurality of hypotheses being displayed as colored nodes within a belief network, and the respective confidence values being represented as at least one of the brightness, hue, and saturation of the color of the node.

5. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 4, the plurality of hypotheses comprising supporting, detracting, and neutral hypotheses, supporting hypotheses being associated with a first color, detracting hypotheses being associated with a second color, and neutral hypotheses being associated with a third color.

6. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, the plurality of parameters comprising a plurality of influence parameters, the influence parameters representing the degree of logical relatedness between respective associated first and second hypotheses.

7. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 6, at least one influence parameter being displayed to a user via a first, qualitative indicator and a second, quantitative indicator.

8. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 6, the influence parameters being displayed as s connectors between respective first nodes, representing the associated first hypothesis, and respective second nodes, representing the associated second hypothesis, the magnitude of the influence parameter being represented by at least one spatial dimension of the connector.

9. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, the computer executable instructions further comprising a collapse node function that allows the structured argument to be scaled to a desired size.

10-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, the plurality of parameters defining an argument model.

13. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 12, the argument model being represented by a Bayesian belief network.

14. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 12, the argument model being represented by a Dempster-Shafer belief network.

15. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 12, the argument model being represented as an Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) schema.

16. (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium having stored executable instructions for determining the sensitivity of a hypothesis of interest to a parameter within an argument model, such that an associated processor executing the executable instructions performs a plurality of functions comprising:

providing a continuous mechanism for a user to modify the parameter, such that the user can make multiple modifications to the parameter in rapid sequence;

updating a confidence value associated with the hypothesis of interest in response to the modification of the parameter; and

altering a display of the confidence value of the hypothesis of interest in real time to match the updated confidence value in response to each modification of the parameter, wherein the display of the confidence value comprises a qualitative display of the confidence value, such that a non-numerical quality of a node associated with the hypothesis of interest is altered to illustrate a change in the confidence value

wherein the argument model comprises at least two contributing hypotheses, the parameter comprising an influence value associated with a logical relationship between the two contributing hypotheses, the influence value representing a degree of logical relatedness between the two contributing hypotheses.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 16, the non-numerical quality being the relative saturation of a color associated with the node.

19. (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 16, the display of the confidence value further comprising a quantitative display.

20. (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 16, the parameter comprising a confidence value associated with a contributing hypothesis within the structured argument.

21. (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 20, the continuous mechanism comprising a line graph, spanning a minimum confidence value and a maximum confidence value, and a slider for selecting a value on the line graph.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium of claim ~~22~~16, the continuous mechanism comprising a line graph, spanning a minimum influence value and a maximum influence value, and a slider for selecting a value on the line graph.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 16, the plurality of functions further comprising providing a predetermined series of values into the argument such that the at least one parameter is altered according to the predetermined series of values, the predetermined series of values representing changes in the at least one parameter over a period of time.

26. (Currently Amended): A system for editing and displaying a structured argument, comprising a plurality of parameters, comprising:

means for storing the structured argument;

means for processing computer executable instructions and accessing the means for storing;

means for graphically displaying the plurality of parameters, each having an associated value, the means for displaying comprising means for scaling a displayed argument model to a desired size;

means for receiving input from a user, the input comprising a request to modify respective values of at least one selected parameter from the plurality of parameters;

means for modifying the values of the at least one selected parameter and at least one other parameter from the plurality of parameters;

means for altering at least one parameter of the structured argument according to a predetermined series of values as to represent changes in the at least one parameter over a period of time; and

means for updating the modified parameter values and the means for displaying in real time in response to the user input.

27. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 26, the means for displaying comprising means for qualitatively displaying the value of the plurality of parameters and means for quantitatively displaying the value of the plurality of parameters.

28-29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended): A set of stored executable instructions stored in a computer readable medium that can be executed by an associated processor to edit and display a structured argument having a plurality of associated parameters, the executable instructions comprising:

a user interface that graphically displays the plurality of parameters, comprising:

respective confidence values for a plurality of hypotheses, at a user accessible display and receives input from a user defining the value of a selected parameter, wherein the plurality of hypotheses are displayed as colored nodes within a belief network, and the respective confidence values being represented as at least one of the brightness, hue, and saturation of the color of the node; and

a plurality of influence parameters representing the degree of logical relatedness between respective associated first and second hypotheses, wherein the influence parameters are displayed as connectors between respective first nodes representing the associated hypotheses and respective second nodes, representing the associated second hypotheses; and

a computational engine that alters the selected parameter to the defined value, updates the plurality of parameters according to the defined value of the selected parameter, and provides the altered parameters to the user interface, such that the display is updated in real time to reflect the user input.

31. (Previously Presented): A system for editing and displaying a structured argument, having a plurality of associated parameters, the system comprising:

a processor, operative to execute computer executable instructions; and

a computer readable medium that stores the computer executable instructions, the computer executable instructions comprising:

a user interface that graphically displays the plurality of parameters, comprising a plurality of influence parameters representing the degree of logical relatedness between respective associated first and second hypotheses, at a user accessible display and receives input from a user defining the value of a selected parameter, wherein the influence parameters are

displayed as connectors between respective first nodes, representing the associated first hypotheses, and respective second nodes, representing the associated second hypotheses, and the magnitude of a given influence parameter is represented by at least one spatial dimension of the associated connector of the influence parameter, wherein the plurality or parameters comprises respective confidence values for a plurality of hypotheses; and

a computational engine that alters the selected parameter to the defined value, updates the plurality of parameters according to the defined value of the selected parameter, and provides the altered parameters to the user interface, such that the display is updated in real time to reflect the user input.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 31, at least one confidence value being displayed to a user via a first, qualitative indicator and a second, quantitative indicator.

34. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 31, the plurality of hypotheses being displayed as colored nodes within a belief network, and the respective confidence values being represented as at least one of the brightness, hue, and saturation of the color of the node.